

Developmental Therapy

Service Definition and Required Components

Developmental Therapy is a developmental disability service that includes the assessment, treatment and instruction of individuals in the acquisition of activities of daily living skills that a recipient has not gained at the normal developmental stages in his or her life, or is not likely to develop without training or therapy beyond age appropriate learning situations. Developmental Therapy can include training in self advocacy and rights, the development of positive social behaviors, and the development of parenting skills. When used to develop socialization skills, the outcomes must be based on specific socialization needs; e.g. does not make eye contact when interacting with others. Broad or general goals to learn to socialize are not acceptable.

Limitations:

Educational skills that are usually taught in primary or secondary school settings; e.g. reading math, writing, etc. are not reimbursable. The service can include some functionally related skills development in areas such as recognizing street signs, making a mark for a signature, or using a calculator to balance a checkbook for adults who are or were not able to acquire these skills in an educational setting.

Vocational services directed toward assessing a recipient's work skills or aptitudes, training in specific job skills directed toward employment, etc. are not reimbursable. The service can provide training in prevocational areas such as staying on task, safety, being on time, etc. These skills can be taught in other functional settings or simulated work settings as long as the primary purpose of the training is not to train the recipient in a specific job skill.

Recreational services related to participation in recreational or leisure activities or attendance at such activities for recreational or leisure purposes are not reimbursable. Developmental Therapy may be used to teach a recipient to access the community, including recreational activities; e.g. learn to ride the bus to a fitness center. It is expected that this type of training is time limited. The service must focus on the primary goals of the recipient. It is not acceptable to fill a need for training in recreational or leisure activities by developing goals not needed by the recipient to cover the recreational/leisure goal.

Provider Requirements

Developmental Therapy must be delivered by a developmental disabilities provider organization which meets standards established by the Division of MH/DD/SAS. These standards set forth the administrative, financial, clinical, quality improvement, and information services infrastructure necessary to provide services. Provider organizations

must demonstrate that they meet these standards by either being certified by the Local Management Entity or by being accredited by a national accrediting body. The organization must be established as a legally recognized entity in the United States and qualified/registered to do business in the State of North Carolina.

Developmental Therapy providers must have the ability to deliver services in various environments, such as homes, schools, jails, homeless shelters, street locations, etc.

Staffing Requirements

Persons who meet the requirements specified for Qualified Professional (QP) or Associate Professional (AP) status according to 10 NCAC may deliver Developmental Therapy. Supervision is provided according to supervision requirements specified in 10 NCAC 14V and according to licensure requirements of the appropriate discipline. Paraprofessional level providers who meet the requirements specified for Paraprofessional status according to 10 NCAC 14V may deliver Developmental Therapy within the requirements of the staff definition specific in the above role. When a paraprofessional provides Developmental Therapy services, a QP or AP is responsible for overseeing the development of the recipient's person centered plan. When a paraprofessional provides Developmental Therapy services, they must be under the supervision of a QP or AP. Supervision of paraprofessionals is also to be carried out according to 10 NCAC 14V.

Service Type/Setting

Developmental Therapy is a direct periodic service that may be provided to an individual or group of individuals. It may take place in a range of settings, such as the individual's home, community, homeless shelter, etc.

This service is billable to Medicaid.

Clinical Requirements

For registered recipients, Developmental Therapy is provided according to the needs as identified on the person centered plan.

Utilization Management

Referral and service authorization is the responsibility of the Lead Management Entity. For Medicaid reimbursement, the services must be included in the recipient's person centered plan, and service orders must be completed by a QP or AP prior to or on the day services are to be provided.

There is a 30 hour per week limit in combination with other MH/DD/SA services that can be waived with prior authorization from the LME. (I don't know if you want to include

this in light of the UM criteria you're developing.) I think it might be better to allow a variety of hours based on the Levels... but what do you think?

Entrance Criteria

The individual is eligible for this service when:

- A. The person has a condition that is defined as a developmental disability according to GS 122C-3 (12a),
AND
- B. NCSNAP,
AND
- C. The recipient is experiencing difficulties in at least one of the following areas:
 - 1. Functional impairment,
 - 2. Crisis intervention/diversion/aftercare needs, and/or
 - 3. At risk of placement outside the natural home setting,**AND**
- D. The recipient is experiencing difficulties in at least one of the following areas:
 - 1. Is at risk for institutionalization, or hospitalization or is placed outside the natural living environment.
 - 2. Is receiving or needs crisis intervention services or intensive in-home services.
 - 3. Has unmet identified needs from multiple agencies.
 - 4. Needs advocacy and service coordination to direct service provision from multiple agencies.
 - 5. DSS has substantiated abuse, neglect, or has established dependency.
 - 6. Presenting with intense verbal and limited physical aggression due to symptoms associated with diagnosis, which is sufficient to create functional problems in the home, community, school, job, etc.
 - 7. Functional problems which may result in the recipient's inability to access clinic-based services in a timely or helpful manner.

Continued Stay Criteria

The desired outcome or level of functioning has not been restored, improved, or sustained over the time frame outlined in the recipient's service plan or the recipient continues to be at risk for regression based on history or the tenuous nature of the functional gains or any one of the following apply:

- A. Recipient has achieved initial service plan goals and additional goals are indicated.
- B. Recipient is making satisfactory progress toward meeting goals.
- C. Recipient is making some progress, but the service plan (specific interventions) need to be modified so that greater gains can be achieved.
- D. Recipient is not making progress; the service plan must be modified to identify more effective interventions.
- E. Recipient is regressing; the service plan must be modified to identify more effective interventions.

AND

Utilization review must be conducted every 180 days and is so documented in the person centered plan and service record.

Discharge Criteria

Recipient's level of functioning has improved with respect to the goals outlines in the service plan, inclusive of a transition plan to step down, or no longer benefits, or has the ability to function at this level of care and any of the following apply:

- A. Recipient has achieved goals and is no longer eligible for Developmental Therapy.
- B. Recipient is not making progress, or is regressing and all realistic treatment options have been exhausted.
- C. Recipient/family no longer wants Developmental Therapy.

**Note: Any denial, reduction, suspension, or termination of service requires notification to the recipient and/or legal guardian about their appeal rights.*

Expected Outcomes

Developmental Therapy is directed toward the habilitation of recipients with developmental disabilities in the areas of self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living or economic self-sufficiency.

Documentation Requirements

A full service note is required as specified in the Service Records Manual.

Service Exclusions

N/A

Appropriate Service Codes				
Medicaid	IPRS	Pioneer	UCR-WM (CTSP)	UCR-TS (MR/MI)